

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for taking a dental impression comprising the steps of:
 - selecting a dual arch dental impression tray suitable for taking an impression of the oral structure of interest;
 - placing a quantity of impression material in the tray;
 - placing the impression-material-loaded tray in the patient's oral cavity;
 - causing the patient to bite into the impression material;
 - utilizing a means for reducing the rigidity in the tray's frame.
 - allowing the impression material to cure; and
 - removing the impression and tray from the patient's oral cavity.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the means is utilized by severing a connection member within the tray's frame that affixes two sections of the frame together.
3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the means is utilized by manipulating a component of the tray.
4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the component manipulated is selected from the group consisting of wires, strings, rods, levers, handles and pins.

1 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the means is a wire removably attached to the tray's frame
2 and which is utilized by pulling it.

1 6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the means is a pin engaged with the tray's frame and which
2 is utilized by pulling or pushing on it directly or indirectly.

1 7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the means is a handle attached to the tray and which is
2 utilized by either disengaging it from the tray or releasing the user's grip.

1 8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the means is a clamp securing two parts of the tray to each
2 other and which is utilized by releasing or removing the clamp.

1 9. The method of Claim 1 wherein the means is low temperature thermoplastic material within
2 the tray engaged with a heat-generating or heat-conducting component and which is utilized by
3 applying electricity or heat.

1 10. A method for taking a dental impression comprising the steps of:
2 selecting a dual arch dental impression tray suitable for taking an impression of the oral
3 structure of interest;
4 procuring a support material which either loses rigidity as its temperature changes from room
5 temperature to intraoral temperatures or can be bitten through;
6 applying the support material to the tray;

1 placing a quantity of impression material in the tray;
2 placing the impression-material-loaded tray in the patient's oral cavity;
3 causing the patient to bite into the impression material;
4 allowing the impression material to cure; and
5 removing the impression and tray from the patient's oral cavity.

1 11. The method of Claim 10 wherein the support material contains a food.

2 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the food contains a sugar.

3 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the food is selected from the group consisting of chocolate,
4 vanilla, cookies, and bread.

5 14. The method of claim 10 wherein the support material contains a wax.

6 15. The method of claim 10 wherein the support material contains a plastic.

7 16. A method for taking a dental impression comprising the steps of:
8 selecting a dual arch dental impression tray suitable for taking an impression of the oral
9 structure of interest;

1 adding a component to the tray which can help support the tray before it is delivered to the
2 mouth and which can be removed, adjusted or altered to reduce such support once the patient has
3 bitten into the tray;
4 placing a quantity of impression material in the tray;
5 placing the impression-material-loaded tray in the patient's oral cavity;
6 causing the patient to bite into the impression material;
7 removing, adjusting or altering the component so as to effect a reduction in the amount of
8 support it was giving to the tray;
9 allowing the impression material to cure; and
10 removing the impression and tray from the patient's oral cavity.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the component added is a removable wire.

1 18. The method of claim 16 wherein the component added is a movable pin attached to the tray.

1 19. The method of claim 16 wherein the component added is a clamping instrument.

1 20. The method of claim 16 wherein the component added is the user's hand removably affixing
2 two parts of the tray to each other.